

## Lithium Australia – can the global food bowl benefit from battery waste?



In an Antipodean first, Lithium Australia subsidiary Envirostream Australia plans to divert spent single-use alkaline batteries from landfill by sourcing from them critical micronutrients for wheat-growing in Western Australia ('WA'). Zinc and manganese recovered from such batteries will be blended with conventional fertilisers to benefit soils deficient in these critical trace elements. [Click to view the latest announcement.](#)



In a (literally and figuratively) ground-breaking trial, seeding commenced near Kojonup, in the heart of WA's wheatbelt, early this month, with harvesting to happen towards the end of the year.

As many will know, Australia's track record of recycling batteries is appalling. Envirostream Australia is the only company in the country able to collect and process spent alkaline batteries and from them recover zinc and manganese for use in agriculture.

Right now, an Australian national battery stewardship programme is imminent and could be in place as early as July 2020. The plan is to introduce, at point of sale, a levy for the collection and processing of batteries once spent. Hopefully, this will see end-of-life batteries commoditised rather than thrown in the bin, leading to more responsible disposal and a reduction in environmental impacts – plus, it is anticipated, a positive outcome for agriculture

Regards

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